

REMARKS

By entry of this amendment, claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20 are amended and new claims 25-30 are added without introduction of new matter. Support for the amended and new claims is evident from the discussion below.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1, 2, 7, 12-15, and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Pub. No. 2003/0204802 to Sim. Claims 3-6, 8-11, 16-19, and 21-24 are indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1, 2, 7, 12-15, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Sim. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Though they are different in scope, each of amended independent claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20 recites a step or structure isolating each of at least two blocks for performing active functions. The at least two blocks are tested exclusively from other blocks. Each of the at least two block receives at least one respective scan clock. Those respective scan clocks have different phases. The remaining rejected claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 12.

Applicant notes that claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20, before entry of this amendment, previously recited that a plurality of scan clocks were provided to each of the at least two blocks (or block means); and recited that each of those scan clocks have a different phase. Amended claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20 now more broadly recite that a respective scan clock is received by each of the at least two blocks; and that those respective scan clocks have different phases. These amendments have not been made to distinguish over the prior art of record. Non-limiting support for these amendments is provided by scan clocks SCLK_A and SCLK_B of Figures 1, 5, and 6, which are received by blocks A and B, respectively, and have different phases. See U.S. Pub. 2004/0187058, para. 77.

Sim does not teach the above features. Rather, Sim discloses a multiple scanning chains circuit which selects signals via a multiplexer so as to output those signals through one output those terminal. For example, Sim's multiplexer 32 of Figures 3 and 4, which is cited by the Office Action as teaching the feature of "isolating each of said at least two blocks to be tested

exclusively from further blocks” (see Office Action, October 31, 2006, page 3), is not disclosed as isolating any of the scan chains 1-4 from one another; and rather merely selects the output signals of the scan chains (See e.g., Sim, para 34 and 47; and abstract).

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Sim be withdrawn.

New dependent claims 25-30 are added to recite further features of the inventions of claims 1, 2, 7, 12, 15, and 20. More particularly, claims 25-30 further recite that the at least two blocks those of claims are isolated from one another and tested in parallel. Non-limiting support for these further features of new claims 25-30 is provided at least by blocks A and B of Figures 1, 5, and 6 and their corresponding descriptions; and at least by paragraph 24 of the Applicant’s published application (U.S. Pub. No. 2004/0187058) stating the scan test may be carried out on the blocks in parallel.

As noted, Sim’s scan chains 1-4 are not isolated from one another. Furthermore, the scan chains 1-4 are not operated in parallel. The active edges of the respective scan clock signals are never overlapped, such that only one scan chain can input a bit at any given time. (see Sim, para. 39).

For at least the above-stated reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejected claims and new claims distinguish over Sim; and further submits that this application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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